

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### ***Flint RiverQuarium names new CEO***

Sanders E. Lewallen has been named the new chief executive officer of the Flint RiverQuarium. He replaces Scott Loehr who departed in February.

Lewallen comes to the Flint RiverQuarium with more than 30 years of experience as an executive leading both zoos and conservation and environmental education centers.

“I am honored and privileged to join the leadership team of the Flint RiverQuarium, *the* center for conservation and environmental education in Southwest Georgia,” said Lewallen.

A Clarkesville, Georgia, native and a graduate of the University of Georgia, Lewallen has an impressive list of accomplishments under his belt. Part of the team that brought life back to Zoo Atlanta, he went on to lead the Friends of the National Zoo, or FONZ, the nation’s largest zoological society. He also served as CEO of the private-public corporation legislated to operate the zoological institutions in Massachusetts and helped to secure accreditation of Boston’s Franklin Park Zoo by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association.

In Florida, Lewallen led efforts in Palm Beach County to restore one of our nation’s most critical ecological treasures as executive director of Grassy Waters Preserve. The preserve, which encompasses more than 20 square miles of the northernmost Everglades system and is home to an environmental education center, became an integral part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program, or CERP. On Florida’s west coast, Lewallen led the development of Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium, named by Florida Weekly magazine as the state’s finest nature center.

Lewallen is married to Constance Elaine Atkins Lewallen, a West Palm Beach native and a graduate of Mary Baldwin College.

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